

Several Courtship Curiosities Told in a Manner to Entertain

ONLY the other day an English bride's brother and brother-in-law had to pay \$2000 for the forcible abduction of her from her humble bridegroom. The bereaved husband had been her father's groom, and the courtship was carried on when he accompanied her in that capacity on horseback. When she had been left by her aunt \$20,000 she eloped with her lover. Immediately after the marriage, though the bride's father wished them all happiness, her brother and brother-in-law, with the help of a detective—who kept the bridegroom in play—carried her off forcibly, and kept her in duress till her father could convey her to the continent—her vague address at present.

This case recalls a yet more high-handed abduction in the days of great Elizabeth, when, however, it was the father who was imprisoned for his contumacy by the noble lover. As this father, Sir John Spencer, lord mayor of London, was the richest merchant in Europe, his daughter's hand was sought by a crowd of suitors of high degree. Among them were Lord Compton and the son of Sir Arthur Henningham, the peer being preferred by the daughter and the commoner by her father.

Imprison Father for Obstinate.

In those fine old feudal days the authority of a father, even if he were lord mayor of London, weighed lightly against that of a noble in the eye of the law, and Sir John, therefore, was flung into the Fleet prison for presuming to have a say in the disposal of his daughter's hand! John Chamberlain writes thus of the case on March 15, 1598-9: "Our Sir John Spencer was the last week committed to the Fleet for a contempt and hiding away his daughter, who, they say, is contracted to the Lord Compton; but now Sir John is out again, and by all means seeks to hinder the match, alleging a precontract to Sir Arthur Henningham's son. But upon Sir John beating and mistreating her, she was sequestered to one Barker, a doctor, and from thence to Sir Henry Hillmabley's, where she yet remains till the matter is tried. If the obstinate and self-willed fellow should persist in his doggedness (as he protests he will), and give her nothing, the poor lord should have a warm catch."

As "the obstinate and self-willed fellow did persist in his doggedness," the noble lord found he had made a poor catch after all. Sir John gave his disobedient daughter neither dowry nor countenance, and Lady Compton, in all probability, would never have received a single penny of her father's vast fortune if it were not for the romantic intervention of Queen Elizabeth.

Queen Bess Plays a Willy Trick.
The wily Queen begged Sir John to stand sponsor with her for the first born of a young couple, happy in their love, but unhappy in their estrangement from the wife's father. Sir John, extraordinarily flattered, begged to be allowed to adopt the Queen's protegee, since, as he had no daughter, he could hope for no worthier heir. The Queen graciously consented, and after the christening, introduced the child's parents to Sir John—Lord and Lady Compton! Sir John, in fact, adopted his own grandson, who ultimately inherited his prodigious fortune.

I fancy that Lord Compton found "the obstinate and self-willed" hereditary, and that his lady held her own against him as she had against her father. Here is an extract from a characteristic letter of hers, written after she had come into her father's fortune: "My Sweet Life—I would, besides the allowance for my apparel, have 600 added yearly (quarterly to be paid) for the performance of charitable works, and those things I would not, neither will be accountable for. Also I will have three horses for my own saddle, and none shall dare to lend or borrow—none lend but I, none borrow but I. Also I would have two gentlemen, lest one should be sick, or have some other ill. Also, believe me it is an indecent thing for a gentleman to stand cumbering alone, when God blessed their lord and lady with a great estate. Also when I ride a-hunting or hawk, or travel from one house to another, I will have them attending; so, for either of these said women I must and will have a horse."

Then followed a long list of all the

carriages and horses, men servants and maid servants she must and will have, finding up with a claim for the following dresses and jewels which must be provided for her in addition to those she would purchase with her pin money for herself: "And, for myself (besides my yearly allowance) I would have twenty gowns of apparel; six of them very excellent good ones, eight of them for the country, and six other of them very excellent good ones. Also, I would have 6000 to buy me jewels and 4000 to buy me a pearl chain."

Japanese Wives Want to Be Old.

In contrast with this emancipation after marriage of an English wife of Elizabeth's day may be set the attitude of a Japanese wife of today. Here, at least, is Miss Dorothy Menzies' picture of the "honored interior" of a Japanese home: "With her childhood the happiest years of a Japanese girl have ended. Starting life as a butterfly, gay and brilliant, she becomes sadder and sadder with every passing year. The colors fade and become dull, until, by the time she is a full grown woman, they have sobered down to a most Quaker hues, except here and there some edging of color shows itself."—Chicago Tribune.

"Directly she is a wife her one ambition is to become old; it is almost a possible way—in the way she ties her obi, the fashion in which she dresses her hair; everything that suggests the advance of the serene and yellow leaf she eagerly adopts. When her husband gives a party he calls in a kelsa; she herself, poor dear! sits upstairs on a mat, and is not allowed to be seen. She is called the 'honored interior,' and is far too precious and refined to figure in public life."

The emblem of conjugal affection in Korea is a goose—I am sure I cannot tell why—which is carried by the best man before the bridegroom; while the happiness of a Korean marriage is secured—again I cannot guess why—by the Trappist dumbness prescribed to the wife.

Silence First Duty of Korean Wife.

"Silence is regarded as the wife's first duty. During the whole of the wedding day the bride must be mute as a statue. If she says a word, or even makes a sign, she becomes an object of ridicule, and her silence must remain unbroken, even in her own room, though her husband may attempt to break it by taunts, jeers, or coaxing; for the female servants are all on the qui vive for such a breach of etiquette as speech—hanging about the doors and chinks to catch up even a single utterance which would cause her to lose caste forever in her circle. It may take a week or several months before the husband knows the sound of his wife's voice, and even after that length of time she only opens her mouth for the necessary speech."

Himalaya Baby's Noonday Nap.

In certain parts of the Himalaya mountains the native women have a singular way of putting their children to sleep in the middle of the day. The child is put near a stream of water, and by means of a palm-leaf or a tin scoop the water is deflected so as to run over the back of the child's head. The water pouring on the child's head causes her to lose sleep and keeps it so, while the mother proceeds with her work in the fields. No one seems ever to fear that baby may be drowned.—Chicago Journal.

Wild Western Art For St. Louis Fair

Great Works of the Montana Cowboy Artist to Be Exhibited at the Exposition.

Special to The Tribune.

ST. LOUIS, April 23.—An exhibit at the World's Fair that will attract wide attention is the collection of Western paintings and wax works of Charles Russell, the famous Montana cowboy artist. The paintings are so true to life and so accurate a portrayal of wild Western scenes that they incite the wonder and admiration of all beholders. A number of them were exhibited at Butte, Mont., prior to shipment to St. Louis.

The one which attracted most attention was "The Holdup," representing the robbery of a stage coach near Deadwood in the early days, by "Big Nose George" and his gang of desperadoes. So accurate is the picture in every detail that the features of all of the robbers and stage driver are readily recognized by many Montana pioneers who knew them. Even a notice nailed to a tree where the holdup occurred appears in the picture in minutest detail. This notice offered a reward of \$1000 for the capture of "Big Nose George," dead or alive.

Another picture, entitled "A Gun Play," shows a frontier saloon where a group of cowboys were being entertained in a card game are making things lively with their six-shooters. "A Rustler After His Supper" shows a big grizzly bear devouring a deer that had been killed by wolves. "An Old Time Buffalo Hunt by Indians," "Scattering the Riders," and other Western scenes of cowboys, hunters, etc., make a most interesting collection of paintings. There is also some excellent work in waxwork, the best of which represents a six-man team drawing three covered freight wagons crossing the plains. The representation is unique and true to life and shows that the cowboy artist is an adept in the plastic art as well as with pencil and brush.

THE NAVY IS ALL RIGHT.

Editor Tribune.—When the German critics conclude that the American navy they are giving themselves unnecessary concern; nor need they flatter themselves we will have to order new guns abroad, perhaps in Germany. The United States has always given its ships the severest test in order to find out the effects of the heavy firing upon the structure of the vessels and upon the guns, as well as to accustom the men to such conditions. It is said more is spent by this Government for target practice than by Great Britain with its immensely larger fleet, and the marksmanship shown by our gunners would indicate that the policy is in every way a good one.

And the weakness discovered in these tests can be remedied in times of peace. While these same flaws and imperfections and others greater in all probability exist in ships now severely tried until such times as actual service brings them to light.

Is Germany sure she would not have accidents as serious were she engaged in a naval duel with France or England or America? And what would be the fate of a ship so visited in battle? Is it not better to find them in practice? For certainly they exist in all modern war vessels. The Greeks said, "Know thyself first," and then "know thy enemy," as next in importance. And these deplorable accidents are incidents in our getting acquainted with ourselves. It would be a sign of something wrong had such things occurred in our war with Spain. But they didn't. And the record our navy made then shows whether the days spent in target practice before the war has detracted from its "readiness for action," its "ordnance technique," or its "fighting value," to quote our eminent critic. What our gunners did then really and actually in battle, not on paper, has never been equaled. Which is more than can be said of the theoretically perfect German navy.

LEONARD COMPTON.

Ray, Utah, April 19.

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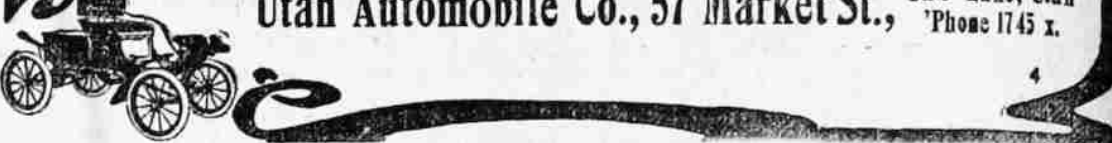
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